

posterior [edge] surface away from [the cornea] a surface of an eye.

4. 3. (Amended) The implant of claim 1 wherein said elongated member has an elongated axis and wherein said thin elongated lip has a central axis and [its] having a portion of the posterior [edge] surface removed [forming a] adjacent the central [edge] axis and wherein said central axis is co-axial and aligned with the elongated axis of said elongated member to position the [central edges] posterior surface away from [the corona] a surface of an eye.

5. (Amended) An implant comprising
an elongated member having a pair of ends wherein one of said pair of ends includes a [lip] an external retaining member having a posterior surface and wherein said elongated member has a portion curved anteriorly relative to said [lip] external retaining member said [lip] external retaining member being located on said elongated member to be positioned adjacent to said curved portion and in a generally anterior direction upon insertion into a punctum opening to position the posterior surface away from a surface of an eye, said elongated member being formed of a dimension to pass through a punctum opening of an eye.

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6. (Amended) An implant comprising
an elongated member having a pair of ends wherein one of said pair of ends includes a collapsible flared section having an outer surface and the other of said pair of ends includes a thin [retaining] elongated lip having a posterior surface and wherein said elongated member is shaped to position the posterior surface

As away from a surface of an eye, said elongated member and said collapsible flared section being formed of a dimension to pass through a punctum opening of an eye.

8. (Amended) The implant of claim 6 wherein said elongated member has a central axis and wherein said collapsible flared section is collapsible relative to said central axis in response to the application of a force on the collapsible flared section in a direction to collapse the [same] collapsible flared section and to urge the collapsible flared section into a collapsed position.

37 AH 12. (Amended) A punctum plug comprising an elongated central member having a central axis and a pair of ends wherein one of said pair of ends includes means defining a collapsible flared section terminating in a starting tip which is capable of dilating a punctum opening by urging the [same] the punctum opening into a substantially oval shape and wherein said collapsible flared section is capable of being collapsed relative to said central axis in response to the application of force on the collapsible flared section in a direction to collapse the [same] collapsible flared section and the other of said pair of ends includes a thin [retaining] elongated lip having a posterior surface and wherein said elongated central member is shaped to position the posterior surface away from a surface of an eye, said elongated central member and said collapsible flared section being formed of a dimension to pass through a punctum of an eye.

AS 17. (Amended) The implant of claim 16 wherein said collapsible flared section and outer edge are elliptically shaped and said collapsible flared section is responsive to a force applied in direction to collapse the [same] collapsible flared

section and to urge the collapsible flared section into a collapsed position.

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18. (Amended) An implant comprising
an elongated member having a pair of ends wherein one of said pair of ends includes a shaped distal tip forming a [starter] starting tip having an outer surface and the other of said pair of ends includes a thin elongated lip having a posterior surface, said thin elongated lip being located on said elongated member to position the thin elongated [tip] lip in a generally anterior direction upon insertion in to a punctum opening to position the posterior surface away from a surface of an eye, said elongated member and said shaped distal tip being formed of a dimension to pass through a punctum opening of an eye.

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29. (Amended) An implant adapted to be inserted into the punctum opening of an eye and be transported into the horizontal portion of the canaliculus including the horizontal sac to occlude the punctum opening, said implant comprising
an elongated member having a first end and a spaced, opposed second end and a central member having a predetermined cross-sectional dimension extending from said first end to said second end;
said first end having a [said] starting tip [includes] including a tip insert section having predetermined cross-sectional dimension and wherein the tip insert section has an offset distal starting tip which is smaller in cross-sectional dimension than said tip insert section; and

said second end including a thin elongated lip which is located on said elongated member to position the thin elongated [tip] lip in a generally anterior direction upon insertion in to a punctum opening and which is adapted to engage the punctum opening.

30. (Amended) The implant of claim 29 wherein the elongated member has a slightly angular curve in a selected direction causing the second end to be slightly deflected relative to the first end for urging the thin elongated lip into holding engagement with the punctum opening.

31. (Amended) A method for treating an external eye condition due to a deficiency of tears including the steps of testing the eye to determine if a tear deficiency exists; and

if a tear deficiency is determined to exist, inserting into the punctum opening an implant having an elongated central member and a pair of ends wherein one end of said pair of ends has a starting tip and wherein said starting tip includes a tip insert section having predetermined cross-sectional dimension and has an offset distal starting tip which is smaller in cross-sectional dimension than said tip insert section and the other of said pair of ends has a [thin retaining lip] thin elongated lip being located on said elongated member to position the thin elongated [tip] lip in a generally anterior direction upon insertion in to a punctum opening wherein the starting tip dilates and passes through the punctum opening and into the canaliculi interior of an eye to occlude the punctum opening and the vertical portion of the canaliculus.

Please add new claims 32 through 37:

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Rule 144

A punctum plug comprising

an elongated central member having a central axis and a pair of ends wherein one of said pair of ends includes an enlarged annular shaped section terminating in a starting tip wherein said starting tip inserted into a punctual opening and urges the punctual opening into a dilated punctual opening capable of receiving and being further dilated by said enlarged annular shaped section in response to the application of force on the elongated central member in a direction to urge the enlarged annular shaped section through the dilated punctual opening, said elongated central member and said enlarged annular shaped section being formed of a dimension to pass through a punctual of an eye.

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33. The punctum plug of claim 32 wherein said opening and the other of said pair of ends includes an external retaining member.

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34. The punctum plug of claim 32 wherein said enlarged annular shaped section is in the form of a relatively rigid flared section.

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35. The punctum plug of claim 32 wherein said enlarged annular shaped section is in the form of a conical shaped flared section.

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36. The punctum plug of claim 32 wherein said enlarged annular shaped section is conical shaped having a rounded outer edge to facilitate passage of said enlarged annular shaped section through the dilated punctum opening.

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37. The punctum plug of claim 32 wherein said enlarged annular shaped section has one side which has a greater slope towards said starting tip.